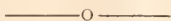


and one *Euptoieta claudia* at an elevation but little less than 10,000 feet. An example of *claudia* was taken in Yellowstone Park. Thus the collector's heart is occasionally gladdened by meeting an old friend far from his accustomed haunts.

(To be continued.)



RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD COLLECTING GROUNDS.

By H. F. WICKHAM.

I.—THE CŒUR D'ALENE DISTRICT.

This region is reached by rail after a short ride from Spokane Falls. Lying just inside of the western boundary of northern Idaho, is the beautifully clear Lake Cœur d'Alene, some twenty-five or thirty miles in length, irregular in shape and surrounded by coniferous forests, now burnt over by at least one great fire as shown by the charred logs which cover the ground in every direction. The outlet is formed by the Spokane River, which pursues a rapid and tortuous course past a few small villages and eventually passes through Spokane Falls, where the water-power developed is sufficient to run all the great mills that line its banks. Along the course of the river much of the timber is small, or has been so thinned out that it no longer has the character of a forest, but near the lake it is still very heavy in places. A few extensive meadows near the outlet of the lake offer another feature in the variety of available collecting grounds.

My visit was made during the latter part of July and in early August of the year 1889. In company with a friend, a conchologist, spent about three weeks in working the neighborhood of Cœur d'Alene City, then the terminus of that branch of the railroad and the point at which connections were made by steamer for mining camps farther up the lake. It is a beautiful place for collecting, and much of the adjacent scenery is both wild and magnificent, though at the time of my visit the hotel accommodations were none of the best. Close by the town lies the military post of Fort Sherman, and as a portion of the forests surrounding the lake lie on the reservation there is some hope that they may be preserved.

Some of the best spots can only be visited by boat, and it was through the kindness of our host that a skiff was kept constantly at our disposal, a most important consideration, since it was often

necessary to cross the lake, here perhaps four miles wide. As it was, we were able to visit any spot we chose.

Owing, probably, to the sandy character of the soil at some little distance from the lake, and to the immediate proximity of the great plains of eastern Washington, the fauna presents a rather mixed appearance. Many of the insects usually considered peculiar to the great coniferous belt occur here side by side with such genera as *Eleodes* and *Coniontis*, which, though not really confined to the western plains, nevertheless constitute one of their most striking features.

Many of the Carabidæ of the Cœur d'Alene district are of great interest and rarity. Special mention might be made of the *Cychri*, some species occurring here which are very seldom seen in collections. Early in August and in late July *Cychrus relictus*, *regularis* and *rickseckeri* are to be found along the lowlands bordering the river and in the valley of the little creek which forms the outlet of Trout Lake. The last-named species looks like a feebly developed *tuberculatus*. On the further side of the lake my friend, while hunting for snails, came across a single specimen of *C. merkelii*, which was at that time still undescribed. *Carabus oregonensis* was quite plentiful in the woods, under logs, not less than sixty or eighty specimens being obtained. *Calosoma moniliatum* and *C. cancellatum* were seen somewhat sparingly. *Notiophilus hardyi* was tolerably abundant in rubbish under logs. Of *Nebria* we took specimens of *sahlbergi* and *hudsonica*, though neither were abundant.

Two curious Trogositidæ were quite plentiful under bark or in polyporoid fungi—namely *Calitys scabra* and *Peltis pipingskaldii*. The former looks exactly like a bit of rough, scaly-brown bark, the inequalities of the upper surface reproducing this appearance to a marvelous nicety. The *Peltis* is smoother, but very much depressed, and is by no means readily detected, unless in an exposed situation. Of the Nitidulidæ notice should appear of the curious *Epuræa monogama*, which lives, each couple by itself, in fungi; *Soronia guttulata*, of which only one specimen was obtained, under bark, and *Rhizophagus minutus*, which was rather common in like places.

Comparatively few captures of Elateridæ were made, chiefly, no doubt, on account of the lateness of the season. A few *Elater apicatus* were found under bark, while a number of fine

specimens of *Corymbites æreipennis* were obtained by rolling logs. *Dolopius lateralis* and *Megapenthes stigmus* were, of course, common on flowers. It is worthy of remark that nearly, or quite all, of these Elateridæ are transcontinental in distribution.

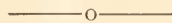
Numerous long horns were obtained, mostly representative of species which are to be met with over the greater portion of the forest-clad region of the northwest. *Prionus californicus* and *Ergates spiculatus* were to be had by rolling pine logs, under which they hide, and in which, no doubt, the larvæ feed. The male *Prionus* has enormously heavy antennæ, the joints "shingling" on each other in a manner not often seen outside of the genus. The sexes of *Ergates spiculatus* are easily distinguished by the fact that in the male the prothorax is very broad, finely granulate and deeply foveate above, the sides armed with fine teeth, while in the female this part of the body is much narrower than the elytra, more coarsely granulated than in the male and with much larger lateral teeth. The Prioninæ, to which subfamily the above genera belong, are remarkable among the long horns for the prominence of secondary sexual characters, and it is interesting to note, among our own species, such curious modifications. *Tragosoma harrisii* was rare under pine logs. Several species of *Leptura* were found on flowers, the two most abundant being *L. crassipes* and *L. crassicornis* now united as sexes of the same thing. They frequented heads of umbelliferous plants on low ground close to the lake, and, judging from the rapidity with which my supply was exhausted, must previously have been quite rare in cabinets. *L. obliterated* was not uncommon. Of *L. canadensis* two very fine varieties occurred, namely *erythroptera*, in which the elytra are entirely red, and *tenuicornis*, where they are quite black.

Turning to the Chrysomelidæ we find a most remarkable form inhabiting the Cœur d'Alene district—*Timarcha intricata*, the only North American representative of a genus well developed in Europe. This insect is to be obtained in moss or on low plants under protecting logs; in appearance it resembles some Tenebrionidæ, especially a small *Eleodes*, the likeness being heightened by a peculiar rough sculpture very unlike most of our native Chrysomelids. Its motions are slow, and from its habits it seems one of those insects likely to disappear before approaching denudation and cultivation of its haunts.

In the shallower portions of the lake are great beds of water-lilies, on whose leaves *Donacia* disport themselves in the sun, safe from the hands of that collector who is provided only with means of working from the shore. Here we found our boat a most valuable adjunct, though even with this means of approach the activity of the beetles made their capture a matter of difficulty. On account of their activity it was necessary for one of us to row while the other perched in the bow with a net ready to strike. The individuals taken were *D. proxima*. *D. emarginata* was common on sedges along the shore.

The Tenebrionidæ were, in the main, such as frequent or feed upon dead wood—for example, *Cælocnemis dilaticollis* and *Iphthimus serratus*, which occur on decaying pine in the same manner as *Nyctobates* infests deciduous trees in the East. However, *Eleodes nigrina* and *E. humeralis* were not uncommon in sandy spots, and several specimens of a *Coniotis* were also met with. *Scaphidema pictum* is coprophagous in habit, a large colony having been found in and under dung near the shore of the lake. They burrowed in the loose sand, much after the fashion of *Phaleria*.

Our departure was hastened by the breaking out of extensive and destructive forest fires, the smoke of which obscured the sun and rendered objects, situated more than a hundred yards or so, invisible. The pall of smoke reached all the way from Portland to Helena—though not equally dense at all points—and even when we left fires were eating out the edges of some of our best collecting grounds and threatening others which may be no longer in existence.



COLEOPTEROLOGICAL NOTES FROM MY BROTHER'S DIARY.

By EMIL C. EHRMANN, Pittsburg, Pa.

These notes are from my brother G. A. Ehrmann's note-book, and were made principally at Charleroi, Washington County, Pa. George is interested in Lepidoptera, and a younger brother, Albert, studies Ornithology, and the following notes are the result of their captures:

April 20.—Coleoptera plentiful, *Cyllene picta* in abundance on newly-cut hickory logs depositing eggs.